

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 612

By Casada

A RESOLUTION recognizing Cannon Farm, a Tennessee Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor and recognize those exceptional farming families who, through their dedication to the ancient and esteemed traditions of agriculture, have made significant contributions to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, the Cannon family of Williamson County certainly rank among those estimable Tennessee farming families; Cannon Farm, owned and operated by the family since 1842, has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm in recognition of its long and illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Century Farms Program recognizes those families who have owned and farmed the same land for over a century, and also documents and interprets the State's history and culture of farming; and

WHEREAS, associations with some of the founding fathers of Middle Tennessee highlight the history of Cannon Farm, which is located ten miles south of Franklin; the farm is a portion of the original land grant made to Colonel Hardy Murfree, a Revolutionary War veteran who is buried on the property; and

WHEREAS, established by Samuel and Nancy Perkins in 1842, the 775-acre farm produced swine, cattle, sheep, cotton, and corn during their day; and

WHEREAS, of the founders' five children, Agatha Perkins Cannon became the farm's second-generation owner; her husband, William Perkins Cannon, was the son of former Tennessee Governor and Whig Party leader, Newton Cannon; and

WHEREAS, the Cannons were major antebellum planters, but the Civil War led to significant property losses when Federal troops camped at the farm; at the end of the war, William and Agatha's son, Newton, returned home and "helped his father put the Cannon place back in order"; and

WHEREAS, Edgar Brown Cannon, who is the great-great-grandson of the founders, is the current owner of the family land; in addition to the original 775 acres, he expanded his landholdings by an additional 90 acres and raised cattle, corn, wheat, soybeans, tobacco, and hay on the farm; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as the members of the Cannon family, who have demonstrated a deep respect for tradition and hard work and a love for the land; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate owners Edgar Brown and Marguerite Cannon, whose Cannon Farm has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm, commend Mr. and Mrs. Cannon and their family for their dedication to agriculture, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.